

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a parking system having one or more payment terminals for receiving payment for parking spaces, an information processing centre for receiving transaction and alarm information from the payment terminals, one or more enforcement terminals and a two-way telecommunications network for transmitting information in real time between the information processing centre and the payment and the enforcement terminals, an enforcement system and a method where a minimal amount of data is sent to enforcement terminals while in use in the field. The enforcement terminals are preloaded with parking space graphics. Occupancy data, which includes only the data necessary to provide expiry information such as, for instance, a data bit for each space indicating if it is "paid" or if it is "expired", is transmitted in real time to the enforcement terminal. The occupancy data may be transmitted periodically or on demand by the enforcement terminal. In this approach, significant data packet network costs can be saved as the network costs are usually based on volume of data flow.